GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2268
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
SCHEDULED TRIBES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes are living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strictly enforce the laws for development of STs and bringing them at par with the people of other castes; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government in its efforts?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) and (b) As per estimates of poverty made by the Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000, 45.86% of Rural and 34.75% of Urban Scheduled Tribes population was living below poverty line.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes for the socio-economic development of STs for brining them at par with the people of other castes.

The schemes of this Ministry relate to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of all the tribals. Some Schemes pertain to ensuring fair prices for minor forest produce and food security for the tribals, besides the promotion of voluntary efforts in the area of tribal welfare. The list of Schemes/programmes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being implemented is annexed.
(d) Through the Governmental efforts the percentage of ST families below poverty line in 1993-94 which was 51.94% and 41.14% in rural and urban areas has decreased in 1999-2000 as per estimates of the Planning Commission. There has been increase in representation in service and the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in the Country.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2268 dated 14- 12-2004 by Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Harikewal Prasad regarding Scheduled Tribes Living below Poverty Line.

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Grant-in-aid to NGO for Scheduled Tribes including Coaching & Allied Scheme and award for exemplary service.

2. Vocational Training Centers in Tribal Areas

3. Education Complex in Low Literacy Pockets

4. Investment/Price Support to Tribal Co-operative Marketing /development federation on India Ltd. (TRIFED)

5. Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
6. Village Grain banks

7 Development of Primitive Tribal Groups

8. Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporations.

9. Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship- and Up gradation of Merit of Scheduled Tribe Students.
10. Scheme of Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Girls and Boys.,
11. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas
12. Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festivals and Others.
13. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP)
14. Grants-in-aid under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.